VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
3
nov
$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
Ectokid
Welcome to the Ectosphere!
OBI
HOPE YOU SURVIVE YOUR STAY!
DIRECT EDITION
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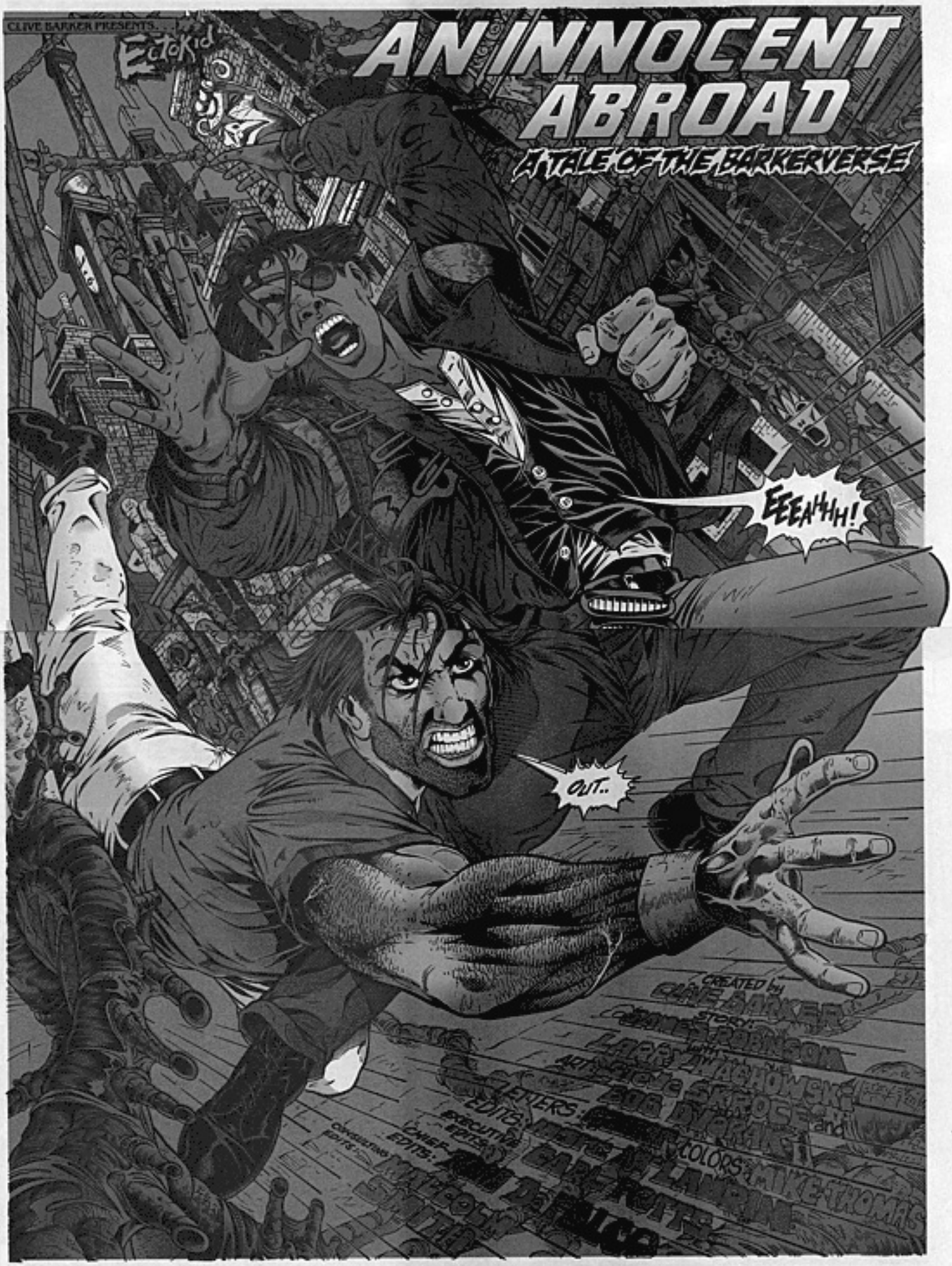
ROCE PANZSIANI

IN THE FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS, THERE IS A BUILDING LONG AGO CONDEMNED.
IT IS A FORGOTTEN PLACE, A QUIET HUSK; ITS WINDOWS DARK AND EMPTY LIKE THE SOCKETS OF A SKULL.
IT IS IN THIS BUILDING THAT DEX MUNSO HAS MADE A HOME.
LEAVING HIS BODY HIDDEN HERE, DEX SWITCHES THE EYE PATCH FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AND PROPELS HIS GHOST INTO---
--THE ECTOSPHERE!
MAN, THIS PLACE IS STRANGE.
SCARY.
I KIND OF LIKE IT.


CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS...
Ectokid
AN INNOCENT ABROAD
A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE
EEEAHHH!
OUT..
CREATED by
CLIVE BARKER
STORY:
CHRIS ROBINSON
with
ART:
and
COLORS:
LETTERS:
EDITS:
EXECUTIVE EDITS:
CHIEF EDITS:
CONSULTING EDITS:

...OUT OF SIGHT... GET... YOUNG FOOL.
WHAT? HUH... A...
YOU'RE THE SON OF LEO MELLHART, AREN'T YOU? WELL, AREN'T YOU?
I'M... YEAH, I'M...
RECOGNIZED YOU FROM A PHOTO-GRAPH HE LEFT OF YOU.
YOU KNOW MY FATHER? WHERE IS HE? WHERE--
I SAID "PHOTO HE LEFT"... AS IN "HE'S GONE AND LEFT IT BEHIND".
HE'S GONE? WHERE?
HE DIDN'T SAY... DELIBERATELY. HE WENT INTO HIDING. SURMISED THE LESS PEOPLE KNEW WHERE, THE LESS WOULD FIND OUT.

WELL IF YOU ARE A FRIEND OF MY DADDY, YOU'VE A WAYS AND A HALF O' SHOWING IT.
THE PARTS OF ME THAT AREN'T BRUISED FEEL LIKE THEY'RE BROKEN!
FORGIVE ME, FOOLISH KNAVE THAT I AM. I SAW YOU, I ACTED.
ON THESE STREETS THERE'S MUCH DANGER.
DANGER? I SAW PEOPLE OUT PROMENADING LIKE IT'S EASTER SUNDAY. NOT ONE GAVE ME A SECOND GLANCE!
AND IT'S BROAD DAYLIGHT! SKY'S A FUNNY COLOR, I'LL GRANT YOU, BUT...
HUSH, YOUNG MELLHART.
MUNGO, NAME'S MUNGO.
MUNGO MELLHART? CATCHY.
NO, MY NAME'S DEX MUN--
HAVE YOU NOT EARS? I SAID HUSH!
THERE, THE DANGER I SPOKE OF.
WHO?

WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
WHERE?
TELL ME NOW, OR...
"THEY CALL HER LA VOISIN. IN YOUR GREY WORLD SHE WAS A WITCH OF LOUIS XIV'S COURT. AND STILL SHE PRACTICES HER BLACK CRAFT."
"DAMN HER THAT SHE CHOSE THE ORLEANS ECTOSPHERE TO DO IT IN! SEE, HER DARK IMPS ATTEND HER."
"AND SEE... A "PROMENADING" COUPLE. MANY ARE HER SPIES."
"THEY SAW WHERE WE RAN!"
QUICK! AWAY, OR THEY'LL BE UPON US.

HERE LAD, A HUMBLE PLACE, BUT MINE OWN.
WE'LL BE SAFE HERE.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY THANKS. I...OH... I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.
JINDRAK, YOUNG SIR. MY NAME IS JINDRAK.
WHAT'S THAT, ARABIC? WHERE YOU FROM WITH A NAME LIKE THAT?
WELL...
...TRUTH BE TOLD, MY REAL NAME'S NIGEL. BUT I THINK JINDRAK IS SO MUCH MORE...EXOTIC, DON'T YOU?
ANYWAY, HOLD... I'LL JUST SEND TOBY HERE ON HIS MERRY WAY, AND THEN I'LL GET SOME MEADOW-SWEET TEA A'BREWING.
TOBY'S MESSAGES WILL BRING MORE FRIENDS OF YOUR FATHER. GOOD MEN ALL.
UNTIL THEN, SIT, RELAX.
AND TELL ME, IF YOU WOULD... WHO ARE THE GREAT MEN OF CINEMA NOWADAYS? ROBERT WAGNER? TAB HUNTER? I THOUGHT THEY HAD SUCH POTENTIAL, WHEN I LIVED.
ER...WELL... WHERE SHALL I START?

HOURS PASS. JINDRAK ENRAPTURED, LEARNS NEW NAMES APLENTY. PACINO, DE NIRO, NICHOLSON. AND MANY ARE THE TALES OF HOFFMAN.
SO, THIS DAY-LEWIS FELLOW. HE'S GOOD, YOU SAY?
WELL I DON'T KNOW. ACTING'S NOT MY GIG...HE'S VERSATILE.
IN ONE MOVIE HE'S STOPPING A SOCCER BALL WITH HIS HEAD AND IN THE NEXT, HE'S UNDER A WATERFALL SCREAMING TO SOME GIRL TO STAY ALIVE AND THAT HE'LL FIND HER.
AND HE WON AN OSCAR FOR THIS... SCREAMING UNDER THE WATERFALL?
WELL, NO.
ACTUALLY HE WON IT FOR STOPPING THE SOCCER BALL WITH HIS HEAD.
EXCUSE ME.
I TRUST THIS INTRUSION DOESN'T PRECLUDE SOME FINE DISCOURSE.
YOU...I...KNOW... CAN'T BE...
I'M A FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER, DEX.

THE NAME'S POE. EDGAR ALLAN POE. AND IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
HONOR... M...MINE...
HERE, I'VE COME WITH FRIENDS. INSIDE, GENTLEMEN, THE NIGHT'S A COLD ONE.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE...
McGINTY. AN EX-SLAVE. BROUGHT MAGIC FROM THE DARK CONTINENT WITH HIM. A GOOD MAN TO HAVE IN YOUR CORNER. PLAYS A GRAND GAME OF CHESS, I MIGHT ADD.
THIS IS KYLE, A LOCKSMITH BY TRADE. HIS LOYALTY TO YOUR FATHER'S AS SECURE AS HIS LABOR'S FRUIT.
HOWDY.
AND WITH MINE OWN EYES... I'VE WITNESSED BILLY TACKLE'S SAILOR'S STRENGTH SAVE YOUR FATHER TWICE IN TIMES YORE.
UH.
BUT HE'S A MAN OF FEW SYLLABLES.
LASTLY, MAY I PRESENT...

YOU! SWORDSMAN! I...
MASTER DEX AND I HAVE MET.
HE SAVED ME... I WOULD'A DIED...
FISH POSH, 'TWAS NOTHING. BUT I THINK AN INTRODUCTION'S REQUIRED. CYRANO DE BERGERAC... AT YOUR SERVICE.
BUT I THOUGHT... WEREN'T YOU FICTION... OR?
FICTIONS WERE WRITTEN OF MY LIFE. BALZAC'S THE KINDEST. BUT NO, I LIVED, I DIED.
AND DO YOU... DO ANY OF YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND MY FATHER?
NAY, LAD. YOUR FATHER FEARED THE DANGER SUCH KNOWLEDGE WOULD BRING ON US.
BUT...
...I DO HAVE A LETTER. ENTRUSTED TO ME... TO GIVE TO YOU.
TO ME? FROM?
FATHER. IT'S FROM MY FATHER.
YES! HAHAHAHA!

MY LETTER!
KYLE! NOOO!
LE VOISIN WILL BOIL YOUR SOULS!
I HATE RATS! IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND IT'S A RAT!
RATS ARE GOOD FOR TWO THINGS-- KILLING AND KILLING!

A SPY... AMONG US SO LONG...
...WHAT WORRIES ME WHO KYLE TOLD OF DEX HIDING HERE!
AVE EXPURGATORIUS!

WE SHOULD GET OUT. MOVE NOW WHILE WE STILL HAVE TI--

SLAM

WE DON'T HAVE TIME. OUTSIDE, NOW.
THEY MUSTN'T GET THE LETTER.

KAAAAK
COME ON, DEX!
BUT...
GO! 'TIS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I'VE WASHED MY STEEL IN DEMON ICHOR! YOU'LL NOT ENJOY THE SIGHT!
TO ARMS!
GET THE BOY!
Oui, Le VIOSIN!
WHAT FRESH HELL IS THIS?
WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM!
OF COURSE WE CAN! THE STAIRS!

THEY'RE FALLING BUT THEY'RE NOT STOPPING!
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!
DESTROY THEM!
THE HEROES RETREAT CLIMBING STAIRS SLICK WITH BLOOD.
THERE SEEMS NO END TO THE ONSLAUGHT.
BUT HOW CAN THEY BE KILLED HERE?
I MEAN, WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU'RE KILLED IN THE ECTOSPHERE?
THE TOWER SHAKES WITH THE DIN OF BATTLE; RINGING STEEL AND GUNFIRE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
BUT ABOVE IT ALL IS THE CACKLING LAUGHTER OF LO VOISIN REPEATING THE WORDS, "THERE IS NO ESCAPE!"

CAN WE HOLD ON HERE... UP HERE?
I THINK SO. DON'T KNOW... KNOW HOW MANY ARE STILL ALIVE.
BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH!
WHAT WERE THOSE THINGS?
THEN WE'VE DONE IT!
THEY MAY VERY WELL HAVE BEEN CONJURED BY LA VOISIN. SHE--AND THE EXPURGATORIUS--THEY WANT YOU VERY BADLY!
BUT WE'VE STOPPED THEM HERE! I THINK THOSE FEW INSIDE MIGHT BE IT.
BUGS! I HATE BUGS!
KRUNCH
A MOMENT'S RESPITE THEN? PERHAPS A QUICK REFRESHMENT TO CLEAR OUR HEADS, GENTLEMEN?
EDGAR, PUT THAT AWAY!
WAIT. WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
OH NO.

THERE'S MORE!
THEY'RE COMING UP OVER THE EDGE!
WITHIN SECONDS THEY ARE EVERYWHERE.
THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH!
GOD OF GODS!
KATASHH

AT ONCE IT BECOMES APPARENT TO EVERY SOUL ON THAT ROOFTOP.
NO MATTER HOW HARD THESE HEROES FIGHT, NO MATTER HOW LONG THEY STAND...

IT APPEARS THEY CANNOT WIN!
AND THESE HEROES WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

GNAH!
KRRUNCH
WELL SAID, BILLY! LET US SHOW THESE HIDEOUS HORDES THE STUFF OF HEROES!
THE VERY DOORS OF HELL HAVE OPENED ONTO OUR LAPS!
THEY'RE ALL OVER ME! LORD HELP MY POOR SOUL!

EDGAR!
FLSHHH
DEX! BACK BOY! LOOK OUT!
THIS IS A TRICK I LEARNED FROM ERROL FLYNN, YOU BLACKHEARTED--
JINDRAK!
--AARRGH!
DEX, LEO, I FAILED YOU!
HANG ON, JINDRAK!
SUDDENLY A DARKNESS FALLS AS FROZEN WINDS SWEEP THE ROOFTOP.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THEY EMERGE THROUGH THE RENT FABRIC OF THE ECTOSPHERE;
OMINOUS CREATURES OF SHADOW, THEIR BLACK SKIN OF GLEAMING OBSIDIAN.
THEY HAVE COME TO RESTORE ORDER.
WE'RE DOOMED!
ETHERITES!
SKKRAAK!

THE WHITE SMOKE COMES TO LIFE, AN EXPANDING BLUBBER, LAGHING LIMBS AS IT ENGULFS ALL.
ADIEU, MY FRIENDS!
CYRANO!
GLACK!
IT CAN'T BE STOPPED!
GAAAAHHHH!
HELP ME!!
AS THE WAVE OF WHITE HITS DEX, HIS FINAL THOUGHT IS...

...THAT HIS FIRST TRIP INTO THE ECTOSPHERE--
--COULD BE HIS LAST!
NEXT
THE GHOST OF AN EXOTIC DANCER SENDS WHAT'S LEFT OF DEX INTO THE MAW OF THE BROTHER'S AUGUSTINE!
SPLASHDOWN!

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EctoKid

endings and beginnings

Marcus McLaurin

A friend of mine never ceased to amaze me with his ability to ease cleanly out of one relationship and into another, a skill he deemed the art of the Seamless Transition. Though it often made names a difficult thing for me to keep up with, I still had to admire his dexterity.

This issue is our homage to the seamless transition.

This book marks the end of James Robinson's tenure as ECTOKID scribe, and we thank him for enduring the birthing pains and helping to give the baby its first legs. James' announcement that he wouldn't be continuing on this series was met with understandable, though amicable surprise. *Que sera, sera.* And James, consummate pro that he is, give us a generous amount of time to find feet worthy to fill the old Dr. Martens shoes he left behind. And in that interim, we found Larry Wachowski, who till this day still swears he wasn't lost.

Some people.

the power that Larry built

The first thing that Larry had to do was figure an out for the ending you've just read. And the way he gets out of it (no, I'm not going to tell you how he did it, not just yet) was so amazing that it not only added to the dimension of Dex's character and abilities, but also gave him a significant new aspect to his power. I'll leave the final judgment up to you (as if there was ever an alternative) but I find it one of the freshest approaches to a new ability that I've ever seen. I think it'll knock your ectoplasmic socks off.

Larry's view of Dex's place in the Ectosphere was immediately holistic, transforming it from a bizarre land before the afterlife to a truly troubled realm. Rather than a realm composed of all the dead who ever were, Larry's Ectosphere is peopled with those souls who cling too closely and tightly and vibrantly to a life that is over, for whatever reason, andcannot move on. It's a whole other world, with a whole new playground.

where to go from here

From here, the promise is unending. Larry's excited. Clive's excited. And Steve, as you guys've gotta know by now, is that once in a lifetime lightning-in-a-bottle kind of excitement, come to life.

And let's not forget the linchpin of our creative crew, inker in extremis Bob Dvorak, who looked at Steve's pencils so much and so intently on that first issue that his eyes started to water. Or was that sweat? Anyway, Bob is a true find in an age where an inker can make or break a book based on his ability as a draftsman–as if there were any other age or standard. Truly talented artists who can ink are a commodity as valuable as a platinum ashcan edition. If you'll forgive the contradiction in terms...

And me? Well, I'm rather pleased, myself.

I've learned from various "informants" across the country (he said in his best Maxwell Smart voice) that ECTOKID's promise is being fulfilled in store after store. Read that to say that ECTOKID #1, at this writing, has completely sold out at every store I've been able to contact! It is becoming a true rarity in this market–a true collectors item!

And small wonder, with the amount of coverage this landmark imprint has gotten, thanks to its creator benefactor and overseer, Clive Barker!

entertainment this week

This summer, Clive spent inordinate amounts of time away from his busy schedule as a writer, director and producer to talk about his newest and dearest brainchild, the Razorline imprint. If you're as dedicated a videophile as I am, you might have caught his appearance on Wednesday, August 4th on **Entertainment Tonight** where he talked about the RAZORLINE phenomenon, focusing on the first two releases, HYPERKIND and this book you're reading now. That appearance followed up major media coverage on the **E! News**, and numerous interviews from the **Austin Chronicle** to the **Atlantic City Gazette**. And all that is besides the interviews and features he produced for comics-specific media including **Comic Buyers Guide, Wizard, Hero, Comic Shop News** and **Comics Scene**, to name but a few. As we're able, we'll try and provide you with excerpts from those interviews, to give you an idea of the behind-the-scens happenings we've been putting Clive through!

Clive has put in appearances at Marvel Mega-Tour stops in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and New York, as well as guesting at conventions in the Big Apple, in Dallas, and in San Diego. Basically, if you haven't seen him, it's because you weren't looking.

We've kept Clive extraordinarily busy, but at this writing it appears that hard work has paid off. Ladies and gentlemen, you've got a hit on your hands, and we thank you for your support.

demand more

But we realize there are some of you out there anxious to jump on our bandwagon, but finding it difficult to find some of our earlier issues due to drastic under-ordering. We hear you. So, let me now announce, if you haven't heard already (fanfare, please...), that we will be going back to press for a second printing of the first issues of each of the RAZORLINE titles!

This reprinting is due, of course, to the incredible demand for these titles, coupled with Clive's desire to make sure everyone has a chance to get in on this amazing new universe from the ground floor. But to assure you get your copies of these books, make sure to reserve your copy from your local retailer!

the tour

Also, to make sure we get to have your personal comments on the RAZORLINE, we are currently organizing a RAZORLINE tour to coincide with the launch of three more titles in the spring of 1994.

If you're interested in meeting some of the Razorline creators and viewing some of the actual artwork being transported across country as part of the RAZORLINE art show, please let us know. Have the sponsoring comic store in your area write us at the address above and we'll jump right on getting all the arrangements made!

Incidently, that address is also where you should send your comments and ideas for a letters page title–and next issue, instead of my ramblings, this space will feature your comments on ECTOKID #1!

Next in ECTOKID #4:
If Dex survives his return from the Ectosphere–and we're making no promises here–he definitely won't fare as well after his first fatal confrontation with The Brothers Augustine!

Be here for **"Are The Brothers My Keeper?"**

Next week in HOKUM & HEX #3:

Meet Wrath–a beautiful and deadly bounty hunter hired to find out the truth behind Trip's "magic!" She's determined to make him her ultimate trophy–dead or alive!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

SAINT SINNER #3:
At last, the demon and the angel at war within the soul of Phillip Fetter have all their secrets revealed! But every truth has its price, as the demon is on the verge of screaming free–and killing Saint Sinner in the process!

HYPERKIND #4:
The hyperkind are at the mercy of Paragon John, the most dangerous man in the Barkerverse! Discover with them the sinister secret behind the Age Without Heroes–and *you* might just get to live to tell about it!